

20 December 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

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At Mr. Richardson's request I attended a meeting in [REDACTED]'s office in order to help [REDACTED] brief Mr. Ev Bumgardner of Mr. Robert Komer's staff in the White House on the Agency's training program for persons going to South Vietnam. [REDACTED] DC [REDACTED] [REDACTED] FE was also present.

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Bumgardner wanted to know the Agency's position on a proposal to develop "centrally-coordinated training" for the people assigned to the Office of Civil Operations in Saigon. [REDACTED] indicated the proposal seemed sensible and that the Agency would be willing to make a contribution. Of course it was remarked by all that the whole thing is tentative and subject to "evolution."

Mr. Bumgardner is currently visiting all the agencies concerned with the Saigon Office of Civil Operations in order to familiarize himself with the current status of training. He will also visit the AID training center in Honolulu and wanted to know if the Agency had any objections to its people in OCO taking training at that site. Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] saw no unusual problem.

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The meeting last an hour and a half and much time was spent on general discussion of the Agency's peculiar needs in protecting the cover status of personnel, on the desirability of language training, on the unknowables in the emerging entity that is OCO, the length of training, the morale problems, for both contract and staff people, in being assigned to OCO, and on numerous other rather obvious related problems.

Discussed this with [REDACTED] by telecon 20 Dec. wrote it up in weekly report.

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